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599

COUNTRY Austria

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Motor Vehicle Repair Shop in BERNDORF

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The Soviet Army motor vehicle repair shop in BERNDORF (D 48/X 26) was known to the German PWs as "55th Motor Vehicle Repair Shop of the Red Army" up to July 1949. A lieutenant colonel was shop commandant; Maj LESIN was the technical director. About 400 Austrian civilians and 71 German PWs were employed in the repair shop, the latter from August 1947 up to their discharge from captivity in July 1949. The work was supervised by 15 Soviet officers.
2. The "54th Motor Vehicle Repair Shop of the Red Army" had also been located in the repair shop area up to May 1947 and then moved to the Caucasus area.
3. Exclusively trucks of ZIS 5, Studebaker (three-axle), Dodge, Chevrolet, Ford 6 make and jeeps were overhauled in the BERNDORF repair shop. The overhauling was limited to work on motors, with the exception of ZIS 5 and Ford 6 vehicles which were generally overhauled.
4. The daily performance was 8 to 10 motors overhauled and 3 or 4 trucks completed. The procurement of spare parts for motor vehicles of US origin met with great difficulties. Defective parts were duplicated on the spot. Only spare parts for ZIS 5 trucks arrived from the Soviet Union but, being of poor quality, part of them had to be newly manufactured.
5. The reporting PW observed some trucks bearing the inscription "Gds Tank Army".

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Comment:

a. The BERNDORF motor vehicle repair shop and the fact that German PWs were employed there until July 1949 were known from previous reports. However, the designation "55th Motor Vehicle Repair Shop" was reported for the first time.

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The report, giving valuable data on performance and work force, supplements previous information by credible sources.

b. A 54th Motor Vehicle Repair Shop is unknown. The WURZEN 54th Central Repair Shop has been confirmed since September 1947.

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